RECEIVED
APR 0 5 2004
MPCA COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

City of Edina

April 5, 2004

Ms. Sheryl Corrigan
Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

RE: City of Edina, Minnesota
Municipal Well 7 Water Quality Study
SEH No. A-EDINA0402.00 14.00

Dear Ms. Corrigan:

The City of Edina (City) is requesting assistance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in investigating and addressing the presence of contaminants identified in the City's municipal wells and public water supply system. It has been brought to the City's attention that during routine public water supply testing, conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), chlorinated volatile organic compounds have been detected in three Edina municipal wells open to the Prairie du Chien-Jordan bedrock aquifer. City staff, and the City's consultant (SEH Inc.), met with MDH staff on February 18, 2004 to discuss these issues.

The City is specifically seeking assistance from the MPCA to a) identify the source of the contaminants, b) determine the extent and magnitude of the contamination, and c) identify potential financing available to the City for constructing treatment plant(s) to remove the contamination from its public water supply system; and (d) identify the persons responsible for the contamination and compel them to take appropriate and necessary remedial action.

The particular contaminants of concern appear to include dichlorodifluoromethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethene, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, dichlorofluoromethane, tetrachloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride. Four of these compounds (cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride) have been consistently detected in Edina Wells 2, 7, and 15 since year 2000. It has also been observed that 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethene have been detected in both Edina Wells 7 and 15. The concentrations of vinyl chloride detected in Edina Well 7 have recently been above the federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and concentrations of cis-1,2-dichloroethene and vinyl chloride in this well appear to be increasing. None of the other volatile organic compounds detected in the Edina municipal wells have been detected in concentrations above the MCLs. The costs to construct treatment facilities to address and rectify this contamination will be significant.

The City has discontinued use of Well 7 and is evaluating the feasibility of various alternatives. Based on the presence of chlorinated compounds detected in Wells 2, 7, and 15, the City is concerned that additional Edina municipal wells are threatened and/or have already been impacted.

City Hall
4801 WEST 50TH STREET
EDINA, MINNESOTA 55424-1394

(952) 927-8861
FAX (952) 826-0390
TDD (952) 826-0379

The City is also concerned about the possibility that private drinking water wells may also be adversely affected by these contaminants. The City of Edina and the MDH are currently conducting a well inventory of the area to identify privately owned wells that could be possibly impacted by this contamination.

It is the City's understanding that cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride were detected in the City of St. Louis Park Well 6 in 1998, and in addition, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride were detected in St. Louis Park Well 4 in 1999. These two municipal wells are located 1 to 1¼-miles north of Edina Wells 2, 7, and 15. It should be noted that the 1998 and 1999 samples collected from these wells appear to have been the most recent in which the samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds.

The contamination of the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer is a regional problem, not just a local concern. The City believes that the MPCA should be invoived in this investigation together with local units of government to protect the environment and enforce environmental regulations.

The MPCA's prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at 952.826.0371.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Houle, PE
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

C: Pat Bloomgren, Environmental Health Division Director - Minnesota Department of Health
Steve Robertson, Hydrogeologist - Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Unit
Terry Bovee, Planner - Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Unit
Roger Glanzer, Utility Superintendent - City of Edina
Scott Anderson, Superintendent of Utilities - City of St. Louis Park
Craig Kurtz, Sr. Hydrogeologist - SEH Inc.